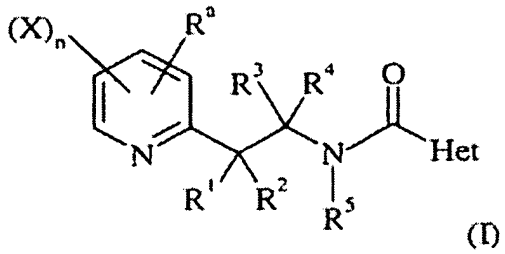
Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A compound of formula (I)



(I)

in which :

-n is 1, 2 or 3;

- R^a is a C_1-C_6-halogenoalkyl having 1 to 5 halogen atoms;

- each substituent X is ~~is~~ independently selected from the group consisting of a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, a C_1-C_6-alkyl, and a C_1-C_6-halogenoalkyl;

- R^1, R^2, R^3 and R^4 are independently selected from the group consisting of a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, a cyano group, a hydroxy group, an amino group, a sulfanyl group, a formyl group, a formyloxy group, a formylamino group, a carboxy group, a carbamoyl group, a N-hydroxycarbamoyl group, a carbamate group, a (hydroxyimino)-C_1-C_6-alkyl group, a C_1-C_6-alkyl, a C_2-C_6-alkenyl, a C_2-C_6-alkynyl, a C_1-C_6-alkylamino, a di-C_1-C_6-alkylamino, a C_1-C_6-alkoxy, a C_1-C_6-halogenoalkyl having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a C_1-C_6-halogenoalkoxy having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a C_1-C_6-alkylsulfanyl, a C_1-C_6-halogenoalkylsulfanyl having 1 to 5 halogen

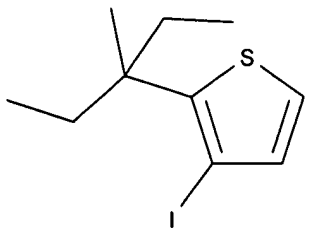
atoms, a C_2-C_6-alkenyloxy, a C_2-C_6-halogenoalkenyloxy having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a C_3-C_6-alkynyloxy, a C_3-C_6-halogenoalkynyloxy having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a C_3-C_6-cycloalkyl, a C_3-C_6-halogenocycloalkyl having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a C_1-C_6-alkylcarbonyl, a C_1-C_6-halogenoalkylcarbonyl having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a C_1-C_6-alkylcarbamoyl, a di-C_1-C_6-alkylcarbamoyl, a N-C_1-C_6-alkyloxycarbamoyl, a C_1-C_6-alkoxycarbamoyl, a N-C_1-C_6-alkyl-C_1-C_6-alkoxycarbamoyl, a C_1-C_6-alkoxycarbonyl, a C_1-C_6-halogenoalkoxycarbonyl having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a C_1-C_6-alkylcarbonyloxy, a C_1-C_6-halogenoalkylcarbonyloxy having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a C_1-C_6-alkylcarbonylamino, a C_1-C_6-halogenoalkylcarbonylamino having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a C_1-C_6-alkylaminocarbonyloxy, a di-C_1-C_6-alkylaminocarbonyloxy, a C_1-C_6-alkyloxycarbonyloxy, a C_1-C_6-alkylsulphenyl, a C_1-C_6-halogenoalkylsulphenyl having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a C_1-C_6-alkylsulphinyl, a C_1-C_6-halogenoalkylsulphinyl having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a C_1-C_6-alkylsulphonyl, a C_1-C_6-halogenoalkylsulphonyl having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a benzyl, a benzyloxy, a benzylsulfanyl, a benzylsulfinyl, a benzylsulfonyl, a benzylamino, a phenoxy, a phenylsulfanyl, a phenylsulfinyl, a phenylsulfonyl, a phenylamino, a phenylcarbonylamino, a 2,6 dichlorophenyl-carbonylamino group, and a phenyl group; or R^1 and R^2 may form together a cyclopropyl, a cyclobutyl, a cyclopentyl or a cyclohexyl;

with the proviso that when three of the four substituents R^1, R^2, R^3 and R^4 are a hydrogen atom, then the fourth substituent is not a hydrogen atom;

- R^5 is selected from the group consisting of a hydrogen atom, a cyano group, a formyl group, a hydroxy group, a C_1-C_6-alkyl, a C_1-C_6-halogenoalkyl having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a C_1-C_6-alkoxy, a C_1-C_6-halogenoalkoxy having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a C_3-C_6-cycloalkyl, a C_3-C_6-

halogenocycloalkyl having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a C_2-C_6-alkenyl, a C_2-C_6-alkynyl, a C_1-C_6-alkoxy-C_1-C_6-alkyl, a C_1-C_6-cyanoalkyl. a C_1-C_6-aminoalkyl, a C_1-C_6-alkylamino-C_1-C_6-alkyl, a di-C_1-C_6-alkylamino-C_1-C_6-alkyl, a C_1-C_6-alkylcarbonyl, a C_1-C_6-halogenalkylcarbonyl having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a C_1-C_6-alkyloxycarbonyl, a C_3-C_7-cycloalkyl, a C_3-C_7-halogenocycloalkyl having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a C_3-C_7-cycloalkyl-C_1-C_6-alkyl, a C_1-C_6-benzyloxycarbonyl, a C_1-C_6-alkoxy-C_1-C_6-alkylcarbonyl, a C_1-C_6-alkylsulfonyl, and a C_1-C_6-halogenoalkylsulfonyl having 1 to 5 halogen atoms; and

- Het represents a heterocycle of the structure



Het being linked by a carbon atom;

as well as its salts, N-oxides, ~~metallic complexes, metalloidic complexes~~ and optically active isomers.

2. (Previously Presented) The compound of claim 1 wherein n is 1 or 2.

3. (Previously Presented) The compound of claim 1 wherein X is a halogen atom.

4. (Previously Presented) The compound of claim 3 wherein X is chlorine.

5. (Previously Presented) The compound of claim 1 wherein R^a is $-CF_3$.

6. (Previously Presented) The compound of claim 1 wherein the 2-pyridyl is substituted in the 3- and/or in the 5-position.

7. (Previously Presented) The compound of claim 6 wherein the 2-pyridyl is substituted in the 3-position by X and in the 5-position by R".

8. (Previously Presented) The compound of claim 1 wherein the 2-pyridyl is substituted in the 3-position by -Cl and in the 5-position by $-CF_3$.

9. (Previously Presented) The compound of claim 1 wherein R^1 and R^2 are independently selected from the group consisting of a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, a cyano group, a hydroxy group, a C_1-C_6-alkyl, a C_1-C_6-halogenoalkyl having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a C_2-C_6-alkenyl, a C_1-C_6-alkoxy, a C_1-C_6-alkylsulfanyl, a C_1-C_6-alkylsulfenyl, a C_1-C_6-alkylsulfinyl, a C_1-C_6-alkoxycarbonyl, a C_1-C_6-alkylcarbonylamino, a C_1-C_6-alkoxycarbonyloxy, a C_1-C_6-alkoxycarbonylamino, and a phenyl group.

10. (Previously Presented) The compound of claim 9 wherein R^1 and R^2 are independently selected from the group consisting of a halogen atom, a C_1-C_6-alkyl, a C_1-C_6-halogenoalkyl having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, and a C_1-C_6-alkylcarbonylamino.

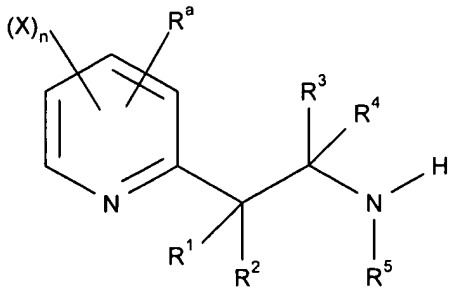
11. (Previously Presented) The compound of claim 1 wherein R^3 and R^4 are independently selected from the group consisting of a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, a cyano group, a C_1-C_6-alkyl, a C_1-C_6-halogenoalkyl having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a C_1-C_6-alkylcarbonylamino, and a phenyl group.

12. (Previously Presented) The compound of claim 11 wherein R^3 and R^4 are independently selected from the group consisting of a halogen atom, a C_1-C_6-alkyl, a C_1-C_6-halogenoalkyl having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, and a phenyl group.

13. (Previously Presented) The compound of claim 1 wherein R^5 is selected from the group consisting of a hydrogen atom, and a C_3-C_7-cycloalkyl.

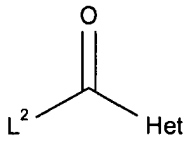
14 - 15 (Canceled)

16. (Currently Amended) A process for the preparation of a compound of formula (I) as defined in claim 1, which comprises reacting a 2-pyridine derivative of the formula (II) or one of its salts:



(II)

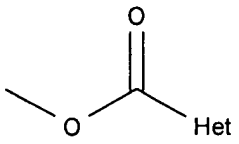
with a carboxylic acid derivative of the ~~the~~ formula (III)



(III)

in which :

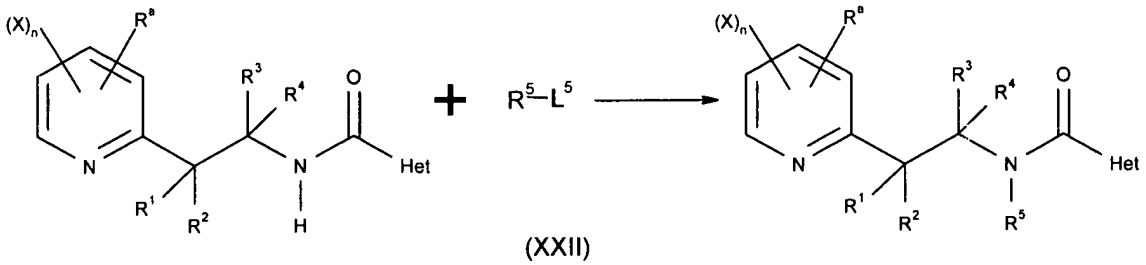
- L^2 is a leaving group selected from the group consisting of a halogen atom, a hydroxyl group, -OR^6, -$OCOR^6$, R^6 being a C_1-C_6 alkyl, a C_1-C_6 haloalkyl, a benzyl, 4-methoxybenzyl, pentafluorophenyl or a group of formula



;

in the presence of a catalyst and, if L^2 is a hydroxyl group, in the presence of a condensing agent.

17. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) The process of claim 16 wherein R^5 is a hydrogen atom and the process is completed by a further step according to the following reaction scheme:



in which :

- L^5 is a leaving group selected from the group consisting of a halogen atom, a 4-methyl phenylsulfonyloxy or a methylsulfonyloxy;

comprising the reaction of a compound of formula (Id) with a compound of ~~general~~ formula (XXII) to provide a compound of formula (I).

18. (Previously Presented) A fungicidal composition comprising an effective amount of a compound according to claim 1 and an agriculturally acceptable support.

19. (Previously Presented) A method for combating the phytopathogenic fungi of crops, characterised in that an effective and non-phytotoxic amount of a composition according to claim 18 is applied to the plant seeds or to the plant leaves and/or to the fruits of the plants or to the soil in which the plants are growing or in which it is desired to grow them.